UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BRYAN VELAZQUEZ, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIGARS DIRECT, INC.,

Defendant.

23-CV-380 (RA)

**ORDER** 

RONNIE ABRAMS, United States District Judge:

This case has been assigned to me for all purposes. It is hereby:

ORDERED that, within thirty (30) days of service of the summons and complaint, the parties must meet and confer for at least one hour in a good-faith attempt to settle this action. To the extent the parties are unable to settle the case themselves, they must also discuss whether further settlement discussions through the district's court-annexed mediation program or before a magistrate judge would be productive at this time.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within fifteen (15) additional days (i.e., within forty-five (45) days of service of the summons and complaint), the parties must submit a joint letter requesting that the Court either (1) refer the case to mediation or a magistrate judge (and indicate a preference between the two options), or (2) schedule an initial status conference in the matter.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 23, 2023

New York, New York

Ronnie Abrams

United States District Judge